

## **Meeting Summary**

The Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Chairs met from October 18 to 19, 2002, at the Hilton Hotel in Knoxville, Tennessee. The meeting was hosted by the Oak Ridge SSAB. Meeting participants included Chairs, Vice Chairs, Co-Chairs, and other SSAB members from across the country. Meeting observers included DOE headquarters staff, site coordinators, and contractor support staff. Other attendees included SSAB administrators, facilitators, and support staff. The meeting was facilitated by Ted McAdams of Strategies for Success. The agenda for the meeting is included as Attachment 1. A list of meeting attendees is included as Attachment 2. Board round robin reports (Attachment 3) and all meeting attachments are available upon request at 1-800-7-EM-DATA, or at [eminfo@cemi.org](mailto:eminfo@cemi.org).

(Note: Some of the meeting attendees participated in an opening reception at the Riverside Tavern and a tour of the Oak Ridge Reservation on October 17, 2002. The reception and tour are not addressed in this document.)

Topics for discussion at the meeting were selected based on the results of a survey of the SSAB Chairs. Survey input was then used to develop round robin discussion topics, and a template was prepared as a guideline for each SSAB to use when developing its presentation and talking points.

### **Participants**

- Fernald Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) - Jim Bierer, Chair; Katie Brown, Member
- Hanford Advisory Board - Todd Martin, Chair; Shelley Cimon, Vice Chair
- Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) CAB – Monte Wilson, Chair; Lawrence Knight, Member
- Nevada Test Site (NTS) Community Advisory Board - Peter Krenkel, Member; Kaye Allisen-Medlin, Member
- Northern New Mexico (NNM) CAB - James Brannon, Chair; Donald Jordan, Vice Chair
- Oak Ridge Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) - Dave Mosby, Chair; Norman Mulvenon, Vice Chair
- Paducah CAB - Merryman Kemp, Chair; Douglas Raper, Vice Chair
- Rocky Flats CAB - Jeff Eggleston, Chair; Shirley Garcia, Secretary
- Savannah River Site CAB -Wade Waters, Chair; Jean Mestres Sulc, Vice Chair
- DOE - Martha Crosland, Office of Intergovernmental & Public Information; Betty Nolan, Immediate Office of the Assistant Secretary; Brian Quirke, Public Affairs Office, Chicago; Blaine Rowley, Office of Technical Program Integration

**Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Chairs Meeting  
Hilton Hotel, Knoxville, Tennessee  
October 18-19, 2002**

---

**Friday, October 18, 2002**

---

The meeting opened with introductions, a review of the agenda, and welcoming statements by the following individuals:

- Victor Ashe, Mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee
- Dave Mosby, Chair, Oak Ridge SSAB
- Margaret Morrow, Deputy of Operations for DOE Oak Ridge
- Steve Liedle, President, Bechtel Jacobs Company LLC

**Major Issues of Each Site**

The Chairs from each site were allowed five minutes each to describe three major issues being addressed by their boards.

***Fernald***

*Jim Bierer*, Chair of the Fernald CAB, stated that Fernald was adequately funded for 2003. However, they are looking for stable funding to meet the goal of 2006 closure. Mr. Bierer explained that their CAB was able to comment on the site closure contract and was instrumental in changing the contract to make it safer for the workers. The CAB had proposed an educational facility as part of the long-term stewardship plan. The CAB is concerned about the accelerated closure schedule and long-term stewardship of the site. Currently, there seems to be no clear-cut transition or budget. Fernald is waiting to hear if the waste in silo 3 will be shipped to EnviroCare.

***Hanford***

*Todd Martin*, Chair of the Hanford Advisory Board explained that due to the acceleration of the schedule, tank closings are posing a technical challenge; DOE will be closing two dozen waste tanks. The other impending issue is the groundwater system compatibility report model from DOE. The Advisory Board questions if this model adequately describes the groundwater issues. The solid waste disposal issue is still open.

***INEEL***

*Monte Wilson*, Chair of the INEEL CAB, stated that their greatest concern is the apparent lack of emphasis on the buried waste in the Accelerating Cleanup Plan for the INEEL. The public is very concerned about the threats posed by the buried waste to groundwater and potentially the Idaho economy. The Performance Management Plan (PMP) appears to have inadequate funding and an infeasible schedule. The CAB fears that the final cleanup will be inadequate.

***NTS***

*Phil Claire*, Chair of the NTS CAB, explained that some 828 nuclear underground tests were conducted near or in the groundwater table. The CAB is concerned that the underground test area project is not addressing the potential for migration of contaminants to offsite locations.

The second issue of concern for the NTS CAB is waste transportation. Currently Nevada accepts low-level waste from 22 offsite generators. The CAB is concerned about the site's plans to begin accepting low-level mixed waste from offsite generators and the potential safety issues involving the transportation of this waste. In addition, the CAB is also concerned about receiving adequate funding to meet the projected shipments of waste from other facilities.

### ***NNM***

*Jim Brannon*, Chair of the NNM CAB, explained that components of the long-term environmental stewardship program are not complete. In addition, shipments of transuranic waste from Los Alamos National Laboratory to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant will not be complete until 2032. A lot of the waste still remains aboveground in temporary structures. Another concern is the regional aquifer, which lies beneath the Los Alamos National Laboratory site. Some radioactive and high-explosive contamination has been detected in the regional aquifer and in its connections to the intermediate and alluvial system. The CAB and the public are concerned about the need for readily available information on contamination in the aquifer and the safety of drinking water supplies.

### ***Oak Ridge***

*Dave Mosby*, Chair of the Oak Ridge SSAB, explained that there are a lot of intersite dependencies for waste disposition. There will be a need for shipment coordination and training between the various sites. The availability of long-term funding for stewardship, historical preservation, waste disposition, and record keeping have not been adequately addressed, and the board is concerned.

### ***Paducah***

*Merryman Kemp*, Chair of the Paducah CAB, explained that Paducah has large amounts of waste that are not characterized. This could have an impact on the accelerated plan. The CAB is considering asking for a technical expert to assist them in the study and development of recommendations. Another area of concern for the CAB includes the term "real" risk reduction and what that term means. But the most important issue is the offsite contamination that has migrated into the groundwater and surface soils surrounding the complex. The CAB is looking for DOE to take more protective and aggressive remedial measures to keep the public notified about the migration of contaminants.

### ***Rocky Flats***

*Jeffrey Eggleston*, Chair of the Rock Flats CAB, shared that Rocky Flats is slated for remediation and closure by the end of 2006. Areas of concern include long-term stewardship beyond the 2006 closure date and getting documents ahead of time so more informed comments can be made.

### ***Savannah River Site***

*Wade Waters*, Chair of the Savannah River Site CAB, explained that while DOE has involved them in the draft PMP, no information about funding appropriations has been provided. Information on risk prioritization, cost structure, and contract incentives are not clearly stated.

**Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Chairs Meeting  
Hilton Hotel, Knoxville, Tennessee  
October 18-19, 2002**

---

The CAB is concerned that legal issues surrounding the high-level waste stored in tanks could delay closure. Other areas of concern for the CAB are F canyon cleanup, waste characterization and disposition, and off-site contamination.

**Communicating More Effectively with the Public – Brian Quirke, Public Affairs Office, DOE Chicago**

Mr. Quirke presented the Chairs with an interactive presentation on communicating more effectively with the public. He suggested that when making presentations, the presenter keep the following in mind:

- Anticipate the needs of the audience. Tailor your presentation on the audience's level; do not use acronyms since most people in the private sector do not know what they mean
- Simplify the verbiage (sometimes a personal experience helps the audience understand)
- Repeat the message

Mr. Quirke suggested that to improve public participation at meetings, the public needs to be made aware of the meeting, given enough information for the participants to form an acceptance of the subject and enough information for an action to be taken. Always remember to have a point of view. Credibility will be questioned if the board does not have an opinion.

**Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management, Jessie H. Roberson, EM-1, DOE Headquarters**

Ms. Roberson attended the luncheon portion of the meeting and made the following remarks (Attachment 4). Ms. Roberson stated that the work of the SSABs is critical to DOE's initiatives, and the boards' insight into individual communities and states helps in the decision-making process. Providing this insight requires time and energy and for that, she is very appreciative. Ms. Roberson assured the chairs that she does read all her correspondence.

Ms. Roberson said that DOE has taken on a huge initiative in accelerated risk reduction. This does not mean that the work will be done cheaper; it means that work will be done smarter and more efficiently. Several accomplishments have been made so far: letters of intent have been executed, risks are being reduced, and 18 sites have developed PMPs.

Ms. Roberson shared that the management paradigm at DOE is shifting on a federal level. DOE has issued a challenge to seek new and innovative approaches to complex issues. The home office staff will report to the field and vice versa to gain home and field experience. DOE is also developing a mentoring programming that will broaden the staff's knowledge. This is imperative to meet the objectives of the accelerated cleanup plan, which will include updates to site plans, modified contract performance issues, and restructuring systems to make a smooth transition through site closure.

At the end of Ms. Roberson's remarks, Mr. Brannon presented her with a letter signed by the Chairs of all the SSABs expressing their interest in participating in a national level as well as offering assistance to Ms. Roberson in reaching her objectives.

After Ms. Roberson's remarks there was a brief question and answer period.

### **PMP Discussion – Martha Crosland, DOE HQ**

Martha Crosland spoke on several topics related to Ms. Roberson's speech.

Ms. Crosland discussed the need for continued public support and alignment so that the milestones can be met in the accelerated plans. Each site will modify their PMPs while working with regulatory agencies and the EPA. The contractor will be held accountable to adhere to all schedule and health and safety issues.

Ms. Crosland discussed the DOE corporate initiatives. Project management teams will be established and will be staffed from both the field and headquarters (see list in Attachment 5). Headquarters has requested that all DOE staff and DOE contractors think of innovative and creative ways to accelerate the cleanup. More emphasis will be placed on contractors and their accountability to meet or exceed the schedule. The budget restructuring will have some effect on the plan, but the impact is unclear at this time.

DOE will be changing how they manage human capital. A new mentoring program will be established, hiring controls will be put in place, and cross-training will take place between the field and headquarter staff.

Ms. Crosland also elaborated on the new Environmental Management Advisory Board, and she provided the following information about the board members:

- James Ajello, President of Reliant Energy Solutions of Houston, Texas
- Dr. Raymond Loehr, Environmental & Water Resources Engineering Program at the University of Texas
- John Moran, retired from federal service as the Director of Policy for OSHA
- Thomas Winston, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for 26 years
- Jennifer A. Salisbury, consultant on nuclear waste transportation issues to the Western Governor's Association and Western Interstate Energy Board

### **DOE Response to the Groundwater Workshop Letter – Blaine Rowley, DOE HQ**

Mr. Rowley explained that the contractors do the work on groundwater clean up. The stakeholder should ask the same questions of the contractors as they asked DOE headquarters. He shared that DOE HQ writes policy then trains, gives guidance and direction. The DOE Field staff manages the contractor and approves the work plans. After that discussion Mr. Rowley gave a PowerPoint presentation on Groundwater Management Strategy.

### **Public Comment Period**

Luther Gibson, a member of the Oak Ridge SSAB, asked about the waste disposition plan. He would like to understand in layman's terms the characteristics of the waste, the final disposition, and the impact it will have on the community.

A written statement (Attachment 6) for inclusion in the meeting record was submitted prior to the meeting by William Simmons, President, Energy Metals Corporation, 2435 Okeson, Salt Lake

**Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Chairs Meeting  
Hilton Hotel, Knoxville, Tennessee  
October 18-19, 2002**

---

City, UT. The subject of the statement is "A Novel Idea for Nuclear Waste Regarding the Disposition of Spent Fuel and Material Left Over from the Production of Nuclear Weapons."

Written statements (Attachment 7) for inclusion in the meeting record were submitted prior to the meeting by the following individuals. The subject of all these statements is "Public Comment and Proposed SSAB Recommendations Involving Joe Carson, P.E., and Other DOE Safety Professionals." Melvyn Albright, Madrid, Spain; Glenn Bell, 504 Michigan Ave., Oak Ridge, TN; John Carson, 34 Smith Lane, New Scotland, NY; Margaret Carson, 35-63 80th Street, #3D, Jackson Heights, NY; Tom & Christie Carson, 4031 Bridgewood Lane, Charlotte, NC; Kris Corbitt, 1745 Piney Grove Church Rd., Knoxville, TN; Dr. Nicolas Dominguez, 100 Greenbriar Ln., Oak Ridge TN; Bruce Field, 6531 Urban Court, Arvada, CO; R. Lewis Hodge, Ph.D., 811 Meadowfield Drive, Knoxville, TN; Linda M. Lewis, President, Integrity in Action, integrityia@toad.net; Joseph G. McAdam, 151 Imperial Woods Drive, Harahan, LA; Jim Phelps, 1600 Buttercup Cir., Knoxville, TN; Zander Dell Raines, 415 Lealand Lane, Lebanon, TN; Reverend Roy Zinn, 9132 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN.

**Saturday, October 19, 2002**

---

**Transuranic (TRU) Waste & Transportation Workshop - Jim Brannon, NNM CAB Chair**

Mr. Brannon showed a brief video from the New Mexico Pecos River Chamber of Commerce in Carlsbad, New Mexico, and he explained the logistics of the workshop. He made several recommendations:

- Fly into El Paso, Texas.
- Arrive before 6:00 p.m. on January 29. A shuttle has been arranged to transport attendees to Carlsbad.
- Dress for winter - warm clothing and hiking boots.
- Touring the mine can be dirty. Blue jeans and sloppy clothes are acceptable.
- Reconsider the mine tour if you have claustrophobic tendencies. Participants will be transported one half mile down the mine shaft in an elevator that holds only nine to ten people.

Attendees were asked to supply site-specific issues ahead of time, including information on the TRU waste system, characterization, transportation, and disposal.

Mr. Brannon opened the floor for other topics to be placed on the agenda:

- Potential for facilities to dispose something other than TRU waste
- WIPP is a potential site for plutonium "pit" production
- Transportation, shipping containers
- Schedule, procedures, and policies for non-normal shipments
- Projected bottle necks to prevention (regulatory)
- Policy: RCRA for RH, certifications, regulator issues

**Site Specific Advisory Board (SSAB) Chairs Meeting  
Hilton Hotel, Knoxville, Tennessee  
October 18-19, 2002**

---

- Number of acceleration plans
- The decision-making process for how waste is transported
- Schedule for the consolidation of shipments from smaller shipments

Three potential core topics were outlined. Other potential topics were suggested. The following five broad topic areas were suggested:

- Transportation issues, including schedules, routes, shipping containers, volume, and non-normal shipments
- Policy and regulatory issues, including regulatory standards, certification, permits, potential changes to the Waste Acceptance Criteria, and acceptable waste forms
- Technical issues, including capacity (and through-put), treatment, and repackaging
- Transuranic waste system issues, including characterization capacity, potential for transportation consolidation, storage capacity, and prioritization
- Bottlenecks in the system, including technical and regulatory

Two potential products for the workshop were suggested by Mr. Brannon, including a letter from all of the Boards making recommendations and suggestions and the possible formation of a transuranic waste panel to work the issues among the various sites. The chairs were invited to send additional ideas for workshop products to Menice Manzanares.

Each site was asked to designate someone as the point of contact for the workshop. One conference call will be set up prior to the next Chairs conference call to discuss the agenda. The workshop will also be addressed at the next Chairs conference call.

### **Next SSAB Chairs Meeting, Workshop**

Ken Korkia announced that the next Chairs Meeting will be hosted by the Rocky Flats CAB and will be held in Denver or a surrounding city. Mr. Korkia suggested that the meeting be held on a Thursday, Friday, Saturday during one of the following periods: March 20-22, March 27-29, April 3-5, or April 10-12.

Mr. Korkia said he would email all SSABs and request that they supply him with dates that would not possibly work for them.

The Chairs discussed topics for future workshops and proposed the following:

- Information management for cleanup projects (stewardship)
- Record management (storage, closure)
- Transition from closure to long-term stewardship (institutional controls)
- Transportation

### **Public Comment Period**

No participation

### **Successes and Lessons Learned**

During this roundtable discussion, each SSAB was given an opportunity to give examples of successes and lessons learned, both positive and negative.

#### **Successes:**

- Mr. Waters, SRS - Working as a team generates beneficial results for all parties.
- Ms. Kemp Paducah - DOE has been very instrumental in the removal of the waste at "Drum Mountain." DOE made the task look easy, and politically it did a lot of good.
- Mr. Krenkel, NTS - DOE hired an outside expert to look at what they had done and accepted recommendations on process.
- Ms. Allisen-Medlin, NTS - The budget committee gave recommendations to DOE, and they took their recommendations.
- Mr. Bierer, Fernald - They have a very good working relationship with DOE. DOE in essence educated them as to what was there and how to get rid of it.
- Ms. Crosland, DOE HQ - A new book as just been released that documents the achievements at Fernald and the activities of the CAB.

#### **Lessons Learned:**

The Chairs agreed that many of their successes and lessons learned were similar:

- Issues are common with all CAB's
- Communication is the key to success
- Financials and budgets are dictated by the nature of the contract
- Direction and focus is need for the boards to remain staple and strong
- Increased public participation is needed at all the CABs
- Onsite education facility for long-term stewardship
- Learning about the other sites
- Being informed about what other people are doing and mutual concerns
- There is strength in numbers
- Learning from each other and share it makes the job much easier

The meeting concluded with closing remarks from Mr. McAdam, Ms. Halsey, and Ms. Crosland.